



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality

September 21, 2000



M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

J. Dale Givens  
Secretary

## DEQ INVITES PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON AIR QUALITY PLAN FOR OZONE CONTROL

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is requesting public input into ways to improve the overall air quality in Louisiana. Specifically, DEQ is currently preparing emission reduction control strategies through (1) fuel modification and (2) air quality permitting offsets. The Department is soliciting public input into each of these areas.

The 5-parish Baton Rouge ozone nonattainment area, which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge, did not meet the 1999 statutory deadline to comply with the one-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Moreover, implementation of additional emission reduction controls is necessary since Louisiana has experienced many days of elevated ozone levels this summer at ozone monitors throughout the state and especially in the Baton Rouge area. A number of the monitored readings have exceeded the one-hour ozone standard.

### Solicitation of Comments on Fuel Options for Ozone Control

Under consideration are emission reductions at point sources (industrial facilities), area sources (small businesses), and mobile sources (automobiles). DEQ is considering options to reduce the vapor pressure specifications for gasoline sold in the state during the ozone season (May – September). Low Reid vapor pressure (RVP) gasoline is fuel that is refined to have a lower evaporation rate and lower volatility than conventional gasoline. Use of low RVP gasoline reduces the evaporative emissions generated during vehicle refueling and decreases the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other ozone-forming emissions from gasoline-powered engines.

### Solicitation of Comments on Revisions to Air Quality Permitting Offset Ratios

DEQ is also considering increasing air quality permitting offsets in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton. Industrial facilities that apply for a state permit to expand their operations are currently required to lower emissions of certain chemicals when expansion would increase emissions of other chemicals. DEQ is proposing that industrial facilities lower their overall chemical emission ratio when expanding their operations.

Both fuel modifications and changes to permitting offset ratios require revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). **Written comments should be submitted to Ms. Patsy Deaville, Program Manager, Regulation Development Section, Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178. All comments should be received no later than 4:30 p.m. CST on Wednesday, November 1, 2000. Comments may also be faxed to Ms. Deaville's attention at (225) 765-5095 or hand-delivered to the LDEQ main building located at 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Fourth Floor. Persons commenting should reference documents as either "Fuel Options for Ozone Control" or "Offset Ratios." Interested persons may also obtain technical information and specific areas to be addressed from Ms. Deaville prior to commenting.**

Should the LDEQ propose a rule to implement a fuel option or air quality permitting offsets, the public will have an additional opportunity to comment during the rulemaking process.